

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A force-transmission element for an engine compartment having an engine ~~which that~~ is displaced in the engine compartment, comprising:

a first impact plate,

a second impact plate having multiple plate parts,

a connecting element interconnecting the multiple plate parts, and

bars arranged between the impact plates to ensure transmission of force between the impact plates,

wherein the connecting element is releasable to permit the plate parts to be pushed apart when the severity of an impact on at least one of the impact plates exceeds a certain limit, the element being incorporated into a force path introduced into the engine compartment by the impact and having at least two different levels, wherein means which initiate a transition from one level to a further level according to a position of the engine in the engine compartment are provided.

20-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 19, wherein the ~~means initiate the transition~~ connecting element is pyrotechnically releasable.

23. (Currently amended) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 19, wherein the ~~means initiate the transition~~ connecting element is releasable through material failure.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 25 19, wherein the ~~element further comprises bars are~~ arranged between the impact plates at acute angles with respect to at least one of the impact plates.

27-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 30 19, wherein the ~~two parts are connected to one another by~~ connecting element is a separating bolt.

32-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently amended) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 20 26, wherein the ~~means initiate the transition~~ connecting element is pyrotechnically releasable.

38. (Currently amended) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 20 26, wherein the ~~means initiate the transition~~ connecting element is releasable through material failure.

39. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 19, wherein the first and second impact plates are pushed together upon release of the connecting element.